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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Hiroaki Takahashi et al.

Serial No.:

10/010,681

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal

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Technology Center 2600

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Washington, D.C. 20231.

Reg. No. 27,213

May 1, 2002

May 1, 2002 1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036 (212) 278-0400

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination of the above-identified application, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows.